

Subsurface BP Toxicity Summary for 6/22/10

Region 6:

Brooks McCall General Summary

- Since May 15, 2010, the Brooks McCall has visited 81 stations.
- A total of 257 samples were collected, at various depths, at 55 of the stations for toxicity testing.
- Of the 257 samples, the data was rejected for 7 of the samples because the % survival of the control samples was not $\geq 90\%$.
- Of the 257 samples, significant mortality was found for 7 of the samples which were collected at stations BM77, BM 78, and BM 79.

Ocean Veritas General Summary

- A total of 48 stations have been visited by the Ocean Veritas since May 27, 2010.
- At 22 of those locations a total of 88 samples, from various depths, were collected for toxicity testing.
- Data from 14 of the toxicity samples have been rejected because the % survival of the control samples was not $\geq 90\%$.
- Toxicity data from three of the samples were not reported because rotifers were not available.
- Data for 9 of the toxicity samples have not yet been reported.
- Of the remaining 62 samples, no significant mortalities were reported.

Technical Issues Being Confronted:

- The data for Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) has not been reported. This lack of data prevents EPA from quantitatively evaluating the exposure concentrations of TPH (a relevant dose metric) relative to any apparent adverse effects on survival that were observed through the onboard Rototox (rotifer toxicity) testing of select samples.

Results, Preliminary Conclusions, and Path Forward

- EPA and BP are currently discussing moving forward on alternative, laboratory-based test methods, including EPA Standard Methods for toxicity testing that can provide useful decision-oriented data.